

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

704 KAR 3:303, Program of Studies (Final) (Final draft of Program of Studies under separate cover)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

704 KAR 3:303, KRS 156.070, 156.160, 158.6451, 160.290

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) give final approval to 704 KAR 3:303, *Program of Studies for Kentucky Schools, Grades P-12*?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The *Program of Studies for Kentucky Schools, Grades P-12* outlines the minimum content standards required for all students for the required credits for high school graduation and the content standards for primary, intermediate, and middle level programs that lead up to the high school requirements. These content standards are based on Kentucky's learning goals, Academic Expectations and national standards. The *Program of Studies* was last reviewed in 1998.

At the Kentucky Board of Education's February meeting, final action was taken on changes to the minimum requirements for high school graduation. These changes, in combination with adjustments to the *Core Content for Assessment*, require changes in the *Program of Studies for Kentucky Schools, Grades Primary-12*. The Board agreed that staff needed to move forward with revising the *Program of Studies for Kentucky Schools, Grades Primary-12*, and subsequently discussed the revision process and reviewed early drafts from sample content areas.

Work to Date:

Since the February meeting, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff has continued to work on revising the *Program of Studies*. Throughout the process, staff continued to consult with the Center for Assessment for advice on formatting, clarity, and alignment to national referents such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Achieve, Inc.'s American Diploma Project Benchmarks, and other national content standards. As content sections were completed, KBE members were sent the drafts for review. These sections were posted on the KDE website at the same time for public review and comment.

Board members will also be sent a final draft of the entire document under separate cover prior to the April Board meeting.

Policy Issues and Options:

The process for revising the *Program of Studies* has been shared with the Board and drafts have been sent to Board members on a weekly basis during the revision process. The final version includes the Board's recommendations regarding policy issues and also incorporates appropriate suggestions for policy change from the field review. The Board's options are to give final approval to the attached document, or to request additional revisions.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends the Board give final approval to 704 KAR 3:303. Input from the field and from Board members have been incorporated into the *Program of Studies*.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Commissioner Wilhoit sent an e-mail to all Kentucky teachers and administrators inviting them to participate in the review and online survey. The KDE Office of Communications similarly publicized the review and survey to Kentucky educational organizations and advocacy groups. This input was considered as revisions were made.

Additionally, the process and drafts were shared with advisory groups (Principals Advisory Council, Parents Advisory Council, School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) and the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC). Input from these bodies will be reported at the April meeting.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Keeping instruction focused on the breadth and depth of content and student performance for Kentucky students in the 21st Century is essential in moving toward proficiency by 2014 and student success in their career and life choices including the military, work or postsecondary education.

Contact Person:

Starr Lewis, Associate Commissioner
Office of Teaching and Learning
(502) 564-9850
starr.lewis@education.ky.gov

Michael Miller, Director
Division of Curriculum Development
(502) 564-2106
michael.miller@education.ky.gov

Deputy Commissioner

Commissioner of Education**Date:**

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